AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 to 20 (Canceled).

21 (Currently Amended). A method for supplementing, repairing, or replacing a native heart valve leaflet or leaflets comprising

selecting a native heart valve having an annulus, native heart valve leaflets, and generally opposite leaflet commissures spaced apart by a maximum cross-annulus distance defining a major axis of the annulus,

providing an implant comprising an elastic scaffold, at least a portion of the elastic scaffold defining a pseudo-annulus, the elastic scaffold comprising a normal, unloaded condition including a spring constant to undergo compression in response to applied external compression forces into an elastically loaded condition, the implant further comprising at least two struts coupled to the elastic scaffold in generally oppositely spaced apart positions defining, when the elastic scaffold is in the normal, unloaded condition, a normal cross-strut distance that is greater than the maximum cross-annulus distance, the implant further comprising a neoleaflet element coupled to the elastic scaffold within pseudo-annulus and being sized and shaped to occupy the space of at least a portion of one native heart valve leaflet to provide a one-way valve function that, in response to a first pressure condition, assumes a valve opened condition within the pseudo-annulus and, in response to a second pressure condition, assumes a valve closed condition within the pseudo-annulus,

introducing ~~an~~ the implant ~~as defined in claim 1~~ into a heart with the elastic scaffold in the normal, unloaded condition,

applying external compression forces at the at least two struts to reduce the normal cross-strut distance to place the elastic scaffold into the elastically loaded condition,

while the elastic scaffold is in the elastically loaded condition, placing the struts into engagement with tissue at or near the leaflet commissures to apply tension and outwardly displace and separate tissue along the major axis of the annulus to reshape the annulus for leaflet coaptation, and

while the struts are placed in engagement with tissue at or near the leaftlet commissures, providing a one-way valve function with the neoleaflet element that, in response to a first pressure condition, assumes [a] the valve opened condition and, in response to second pressure

condition, assumes [a] the valve closed condition, ~~by locating the scaffold as defined in claim 1 in net compression adjacent all or a portion of a native heart valve annulus to define a pseudo-annulus, with the neoleaflet element as defined in claim 1 occupying the space of at least a portion of one native heart valve leaflet to provide the one-way valve function, and with~~ the ~~spaced apart~~ at least two struts ~~as defined in claim 1 contacting~~ engaging tissue at or near ~~opposite~~ the leaflet commissures ~~of the heart valve annulus~~ to brace the elastic scaffold while in the elastically loaded condition against migration within the annulus during the one-way valve function ~~and apply tension to outwardly displace and separate tissue along a major axis of the native heart valve annulus for reshaping the heart valve annulus for leaflet coaptation~~.

22 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 21

wherein the introducing ~~step~~ comprises using an open heart surgical procedure.

23 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 21

wherein the introducing ~~step~~ comprises using a surgical procedure in which the implant is carried within a catheter.

24 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 21

wherein the introducing ~~step~~ comprises using an intravascular surgical procedure.